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REVIEWS.

The Dutch and Quaker Colonies in America. By JOHN FISKE. 2 vols. Pp. xvi, 294, and xvi, 386. Price, \$4.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1899.

Mr. Fiske's series on American colonial history, beginning with "Old Virginia and her Neighbors" and followed by "The Beginnings of New England" is now continued by a study of the early middle colonies and is to be concluded by a later work which will bring the subject down to the Revolution. While the present book is fairly on a par with the author's other historical treatises, there is nevertheless a certain lack of that broad, comprehensive stand-point which serves to bring order out of the chaos of detail. In the work under review the narrative begins with the early discoveries of the middle region and is brought down to the middle of the eighteenth century. A disproportionately large amount of space is given to the early voyages of discovery and adventure; the author is consequently well advanced in the first volume before he begins on the settlement period. He enters into much unnecessary, though interesting, detail in this and other places throughout the book and it must often occur to the reader that the work might profitably have been condensed to a single volume. There are numerous interesting anecdotes, some valuable maps and extracts from original documents but, on the whole, the references are to secondary sources. It cannot be said that any considerable degree of originality is shown in the interpretation of our colonial history although the author is certainly well qualified for such a task. It may be that the final volumes in the series will gather together the somewhat scattered threads of material and weave them into a more coherent fabric. Mr. Fiske is not a historian of the impressionist school; he does not attempt to reveal, by a few bold strokes of the pen, a general picture of colonial times. He prefers rather to present the minutiae of his subject *à la* Meissonier, allowing his readers to draw their own conclusions. One of the best and most interesting parts of the work is the chapter on the "Migration of Sects." In this the author treats of the influence of those great waves of European emigration which were caused by religious persecution and which went so far to determine the character of the American colonies. The peculiar nature of the sect of Friends and the political ideas of their leader in America, William Penn, are also well brought out. In view of the tremendous political influence exerted by religious denominations during our early history, there still seems to be a very fruitful field for historical inquiry along this line. An example of this is seen in Sachse's "German Pietists in Pennsylvania," and in his recent work

on "German Sectarianism in Pennsylvania." Mr. Fiske has clearly recognized the political and social importance of early American denominationalism and has done justice to it in all his historical works. He has however, most unfortunately, slighted another and equally important factor in the early history of the colonies, viz., their economic development. From the very outset the environment of the colonists exerted a strong and ever-increasing influence upon their social and political growth, an influence which was in all respects as strong as that wielded by the purely hereditary forces of religion and political tradition. The author merely touches upon this important factor in colonial development, and his work is to that extent incomplete. In all that concerns style and literary finish the book is admirable; Mr. Fiske's writings invariably possess a peculiar charm arising from the author's felicity of expression, and the present work is no exception to the rule.

JAMES T. YOUNG.

Tropical Colonization. An Introduction to the Study of the Subject. By ALLEYNE IRELAND. Pp. xii, 282. Price, \$2. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1899.

As an introduction to the study of tropical colonization this book is a distinct success. It states the problems and describes the methods by which the several colonial powers have attempted to solve them. Americans are seeking just such information to-day and they will be grateful to Mr. Ireland for putting the matter in such compact and readable form.

In his introductory chapter the author traces the growth of the British colonial conception and then proceeds to describe the manner in which England, France and Holland govern their tropical dependencies. In his chapter on "Trade and the Flag" Mr. Ireland presents a number of carefully prepared statistical tables from which the following interesting facts appear: "The United Kingdom is as dependent to-day as she has been at any time during the past forty years on the British Colonies and Possessions as a source of supply. The United Kingdom is as dependent to-day as she has been at any time during the past forty years on the British Colonies and possessions as markets for her goods. The British Colonies and Possessions are establishing their commercial independence of the United Kingdom, for, (a) The United Kingdom is receiving a lesser proportion of their exports from year to year. (b) The United Kingdom is sending them a lesser proportion of their imports from year to year. During the past twenty years the United States has been more important to the United Kingdom as a source of supply than the whole of the British Empire.